

Opinion

“from our experience”

At The Social Club

Clarkson Radio. Both of us have been involved with Clarkson Radio during our internment at Clarkson. Radio is important because one does get tired of listening to his/her own limited tape collection. Clarkson Radio consists of two relatively independent radio sta-

**Jeff Blackey/
David Byrne**

tions, WNTC and WTSC. They share some of their facilities, but they are completely different stations. They rarely play the same kind of music.

There's one other major difference between the two stations. WNTC only broadcasts on cable, which means you can't receive it in your car. Thanks to Potsdam Newchannels, it also means that most of the time you can't receive it on your home stereo. WTSC is broadcast over the air as well as on the cable. This means, of course, that you can receive it in your car on those short rides to class, provided your radio thaws out. Don't bother to try to listen to WTSC on your trip to Florida for break, however. WTSC has about the broadcast power of seven good light bulbs.

Returning to the two stations, they are so different that people who spin records at WTSC don't talk to the disk jockey's at WNTC and visa versa. We know this. After over three years on WNTC, we learned not to expect the people at WTSC not to speak to us. (It's probably due to Jeff's babbling.) Actually, though, the people at TSC will say the rockers on NTC are unsocial, and at NTC, we call the TSC DJ's maladapted. Generally, each side just accepts that they are naturally better and not one starts a fight. Did you ever get in the way of a maniac DJ spinning albums *at you*?

When members of the two stations do talk, they usually argue over which station plays REAL music. There is never any point to the argument because both parties

are too pig-headed to listen to the other. We always were, anyway. And most of the Clarkson students could care less.

Of all the things to do at Clarkson, the two radio stations are among the least social. Ever try to socialize with yourself? That's what it's like when you're alone with no listeners. The DJ's just come in, play some of their music, and leave. Most try to avoid speaking to the DJ's who have shows before and after them. Of course this was never the case with us. If another DJ was *actually there* before us, or came in after us, we'd always talk to him. Naturally, this was never appreciated by the poor fellow (no one appreciates us) and he would usually respond with the silent treatment. You talk about your anti-social nerds, the radio stations have found them all. No wonder Clarkson keeps the stations in the basement of The Pit.

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Beyond the differences in music and broadcasting methods, the two radio stations do have several things in common. One of these is fine audio equipment, though not quite as good as the TV station. Why the TV station, which broadcasts such useful things at Student Senate meetings, needs better audio equipment than two radio stations broadcasting stereo music is beyond our ability to understand.

Both stations are equipped with nice mixing boards, turntables and tape players. But it's too bad there are so many engineers at Clarkson. These Clarkson techers just can't seem to keep their grubby paws off anything with little buttons and lights on it. Consequently, it's never the case where everything at the station works quite right.

Then of course, there is the radio news. “What news?” you ask. Can you remember the last time you heard a newscast on Clarkson Radio. When Paul Peyla left last year, they lost their last newscaster.

This is not to say that they are not interested in news because they are. After Paul left, the techers have spent much of their time and much of Clarkson's student funds to tie the news room directly into each of the broadcast studios. Now all they have to do is find a fully capable staff, and some news. The *Integrator* can't find any news, so what makes radio think it can?

Another feature the two stations share is discontinuity. Not that we're in favor of listening to WPAC 93 (because we're not), but at least if you did listen to PAC, you would know what you'd be listening to: Top 40. With Clarkson Radio, this is not the case. One minute you'd be listening to Metal Mike (you can guess he doesn't play Top 40). The next minute, you'd be listening to Dave Byrne spin Oldies. A complete lack of consistency.

Then again, you probably wouldn't be listening to Metal Mike because Mr. Mike hasn't shown for his show in weeks. So you either get to listen to an endless tape loop or nothing at all. And here lies another problem with the radio stations: disorder. This Metal Mike fellow blows off his show regularly while the only time slot some dedicated freshman can get is 2am to 6am. While the freshman might be a complete nerd, (Something has to be wrong with someone who is in the radio station at four in the morning on Saturday.) This freshman probably should be allowed a good time slot, if for no other reason than his dedication.

Obviously, we're not trying to offend anyone involved with Clarkson Radio. After all, as members we'd be abusing ourselves. But still, we're not just kidding around here. From our experience with Clarkson Radio, we can say that the above descriptions are real problems, and they depict the general attitude taken by Clarkson students toward campus activities. We like to take a lighter look at such problems, however, and hopefully this will turn a few heads. (Metalheads, Talking Heads, etc.)

Jeff Blackey and David Byrne are seniors at Clarkson University and, respectively, former and current members of Clarkson Radio.